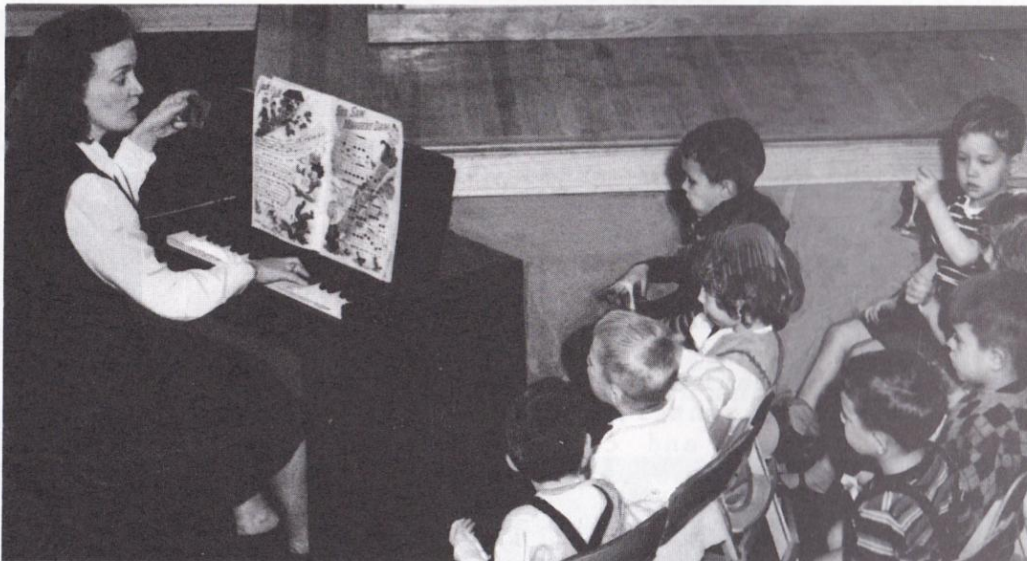


News from GREEN ACRES

Alumni Newsletter

February 2024

St. Martin's Celebrates 77 Years



Miss Leigh And Her Kindergartners

This month, our alma mater celebrated its 77th year of preparing students to thrive in college and in life through its commitment to Faith, Scholarship, and Service. On February 19, 1947, St. Martin's was founded as the first day school established by the Episcopal Church in Louisiana. The school was originally located on Metairie Road and the student body consisted of a weekday kindergarten group taught by the school's first teacher, Anne Leigh (pictured). At the start of the 1947-48 school year, the Rev. David Colony became the school's first official headmaster.

The school was originally housed in St. Martin's Church's all-purpose building. It was soon clear that more space would be needed for a growing student body. At the start of the 1950-51 school year the new campus opened at Green Acres with nine two-classroom cottages, a gymnasium, a temporary cafeteria, and an office. For the first time in the school's history, it was open to a full twelve grades.



Three Senior Basketball Captains Played Their Final Home Game This Month The trio of Cooper Odom, Matthew Weaver, and Jophie LaForge led their second-seeded team into a Division IV select regional playoff game victory against No. 15 Riverside on February 27. The team advanced to the Quarterfinals and will take on the Westminster Christian Crusaders on Friday, March 1. Additionally, **congratulations to Matthew Weaver** (pictured: middle) for breaking the St. Martin's all-time basketball scoring record! Matthew reached 1701 career points in the February 9 game vs. Country Day. (The previous record of 1699 points was set by Amanda Perkins '07.)



Senior Leadership Tradition Continues

Students in the Class of 2024 took over the leadership roles of St. Martin's for the entire day of February 1 in the annual tradition of Senior Leadership Day. Their capability echoed the skills of previous classes that took on the challenges of leadership and impressed students and teachers alike.

[View Photos](#)

Senior Reilly Velasquez Selected to Soccer All-Star Team

Congratulations to senior Reilly Velasquez for being selected to the Louisiana High School Coaches Association and the Louisiana High School Soccer Coaches Association roster for the boys' 2024 Soccer All-Star Game. Reilly was one of just 22 selected to compete on the Boys' East team.



Alumni Spotlight - *Margot Castaing Rainold '02*



- 14-Year Club Member
- Sister of Peter Castaing '00
- University of Alabama, BA, Art History
- Delgado, Interior Design Degree
- Licensed in Real Estate, 2014 (*licensed with McEnergy Residential*)
- Co-Founder of M&M Residential
- Owner/Founder of Maison de Luca Design, LLC

You were a member of the StM 14-Year Club. Talk about the experience of growing up at St. Martin's.

When you're at a place for so long, it shapes almost every part of you. So many of our graduating class had been there from the beginning, as 13 - or 14-Year Club members. I loved being a part of this small community that is faith-based and all about service. The Christian aspect of St. Martin's was important, because I grew up in a very religious family.

How did your St. Martin's education prepare you for the path you took after graduation?

The challenging curriculum at St. Martin's gave me such great organizational skills. I feel like you cannot understand just how well St. Martin's prepares you for college and life until you've graduated. I recall during my freshman year at Alabama, sitting in an English class and just feeling so prepared. St. Martin's gives you such a leg up starting your college career because it's the norm to work hard when you're a

student there. Truly, that feeling was not lost on me as an 18-year-old freshman.

You are currently competing on the first season of a new reality TV design competition program called “[Cabin Wars: Flip It to Win It.](#)” How did you get involved with this project?

My fellow contestants and I have been given the challenge of modernizing a group of outdated cabins in a camping space in Robert, Louisiana. We have 30 days and a \$20,000 budget, and we’re competing for a chance to win a \$40,000 prize. There are people competing from all over the country, but I saw the call for auditions and my business partner talked me into it. I auditioned on the last day, and I got picked!

It’s been fun because we’re competitive with ourselves, but not as much with each other. It really has been a life-changing experience, especially getting to know the other competitors and their back stories. In addition, I love a challenge and I feel so blessed to continue to be challenged in my work life. I like to make a space beautiful, practical, and useful, and seeing a family make memories in a space that I have created for them is so rewarding. It’s exciting that through this show, I can do that in a whole new capacity.

Even though I have always had my hand in the renovation and design side of things, I have concentrated more on real estate in recent years, so Cabin Wars has been tough, but so rewarding. And it’s this type of experience that reminds me why I started doing design in the first place and why I fell in love with it.

Personally, this challenge is especially important to me because I’m leveraging it to gain exposure for and benefit a cause that is so near and dear to my heart. My husband, Zandy, is the Chairman of the Board of Hogs for the Cause, which has become the country’s leading fundraiser for pediatric brain cancer. Through Hogs, we met the Dickens family, an amazing Hogs grant family whose four-year-old daughter, Kallie, was battling brain cancer. She passed away in 2022 and we have remained close with them. Their perseverance and dedication to keeping her legacy alive through Hogs and their own foundation that also raises money for pediatric brain cancer, Keeping a Light for Kallie, inspired me to dedicate my cabin and my time on Cabin Wars to them. My hope is that Kallie’s Cabin will be a space where families can make wonderful memories together.

“Cabin Wars” will be airing in the Spring on select streaming platforms, but voting is going on now. **You can watch what I did with my cabin and vote today here!**

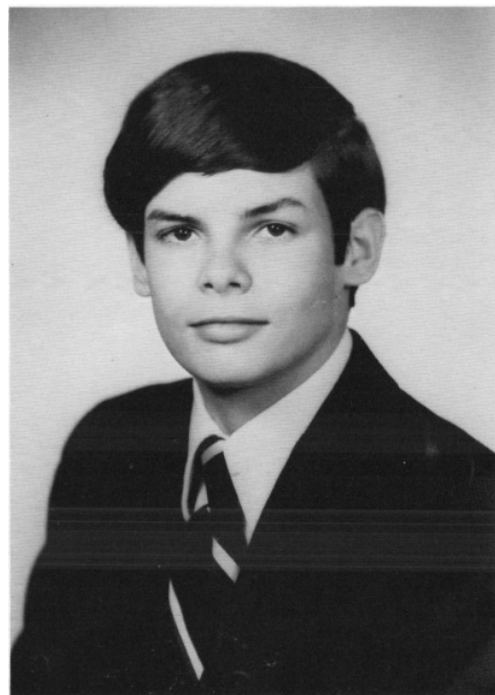
[Read More](#)

Alumni Achievements

We invite you to share your career triumphs and milestones with us so that we can share them with the community here and on our social media channels. Tag us on **Instagram** and **Facebook**, or email alumni@stmsaints.com to submit your news. **#AlwaysASaint**



John M. Eastman '64 was named Rex, the King of Carnival, for Mardi Gras 2024. Eastman embodies St. Martin's ideals of Faith, Scholarship, and Service, and was honored as the 22nd recipient of the Martin de Tours Award in 2016, St. Martin's highest alumni honor. He was also inducted into St. Martin's Alumni Athletic Hall of Fame in 2007. **Hail Rex!**



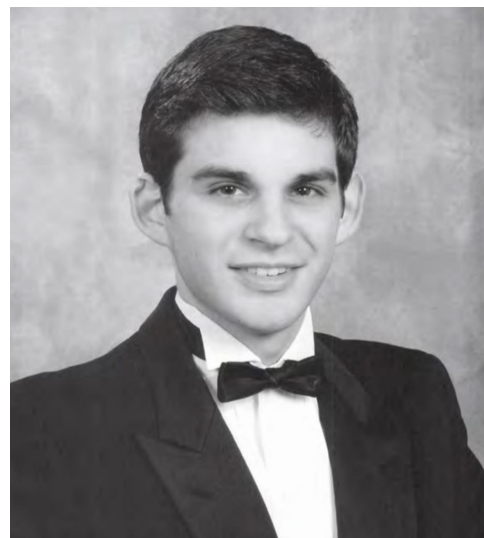
Walter F. Becker, Jr. '74 has been selected as the Sugar Bowl Committee's President for the 2024-25 year. He is the 66th president of the organization and will preside over the 91st annual playing of the Allstate Sugar Bowl Football Classic which will double as a College Football Playoff (CFP) quarterfinal on January 1, 2025.



J. T. Blatty '96, a documentary photographer, photojournalist, and writer, was recently interviewed on NPR's "Here and Now" to discuss her latest memoir, *Snapshots Sent Home*. Blatty presented her book at Octavia Books on February 24.



Hayley Hutchinson Harang '04, after 10 years as the Director of Early Childhood at St. George's Episcopal School in New Orleans, has accepted the position of Head of School at Paddington Station Preschool in Denver, Colorado.



Michael Moore '09 will be playing the title character in Jefferson Performing Arts Society's production of "**Jesus Christ Superstar**" in March.



Bonnie Cash '15 has been working as a photojournalist for Reuters, *The New York Times*, and UPI. She is currently on assignment accompanying the president of the United States on Air Force One.

Student *Career Exploration Program*

The Upper School is seeking alumni who are willing to connect with current students through St. Martin's career exploration program. The school has several events for Upper School students this semester, including Freshman Shadow Day and Junior/Senior Career Day on April 23, and the Senior Internship Program in May. These experiences allow students to learn more about particular fields that interest them, and see firsthand how the skills they are learning relate to the world of work. If you are interested in hosting a current St. Martin's freshman to shadow you at your workplace for the day, mentoring a senior during our two-week internship program, or speaking to our juniors and seniors on Career Day, please contact the Alumni office.



Get Involved

Call for *Nominations*

Each year, the school honors special community members with awards that

acknowledge their vast achievements. The **Dorothy Porter Service Award (DPSA)**, named for the late Mrs. Porter to recognize her commitment to St. Martin's, is presented to an exemplary St. Martin's citizen who has consistently served the school with time, talent, and treasure. This award will be presented at the upcoming Alumni Spirit Party in May. **Nominations for the 2023-24 school year Dorothy Porter Service Award are due April 1.** The **Alumni Athletic Hall of Fame (HOF)** recognizes individuals and/or teams who were involved in interscholastic athletics as players, coaches, athletic trainers or administrators and who distinguished themselves in any of these capacities while at St. Martin's. The 2024-25 HOF class will be recognized during a special ceremony over Homecoming weekend in October 2024. **Nominations for the 2024-25 Hall of Fame are due May 1.** You can find award information, past recipients, and nomination forms [here](#).

Nominate for the DPSA

Nominate for the HOF



Become a St. Martin's Summer Camp Counselor!

Return to your alma mater for the summer and make a positive impact on the lives of StM campers. You will gain not only valuable experiences, but also create lifelong memories and friendships! This job opportunity is perfect for college students and recent graduates pursuing a career in education.

June 3-28 and July 8-August 2, 2024 Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Visit the job listing [here](#) to learn more and apply online.

Upcoming Events



In just a few weeks, the Alumni Lawn of the Van Slate House will be transformed into old Havana for our annual St. Martin's Gala! Join us for a memorable evening, including a silent and live auction, benefitting your alma mater and our two campus libraries.

[Purchase Tickets](#)



Hop on Over to StM for the Alumni Easter Egg Hunt!

We'll have pictures with the Easter Bunny, courtesy of Wally Porter '76, plus crafts, face painting, and of course the egg hunt, which will begin promptly at 10:30. Don't forget to bring your own basket!

St. Martin's to Sponsor the Civil Discourse Speaker Series

St. Martin's is pleased to be a sponsor of the 2024 Civil Discourse Speaker Series. This year's speaker is Ian Vásquez, author of the **Human Freedom Index 2023**, who will discuss Personal & Economic Freedom, Global Poverty and Human Flourishing.

Vásquez will speak to Upper School students, followed by a Q&A, at an StM-only event on campus April 9. In addition, the public is invited to attend a free event on April 9, from 6:00 - 7:15 p.m. at Metairie Park Country Day School.

The speaker series, supported by the Jay Lapeyre and Greg Rusovich families, is sponsored by Isidore Newman School, Metairie Park Country Day School, Academy of the Sacred Heart, and St. Martin's Episcopal School.

Save the Date for Alumni Spirits Weekend

Friday, May 10 - Saturday, May 11, 2024

Alumni Chapel • Class Reunion events • Alumni Parent Playdate • Special Cocktail Hour for Reunion Years • Alumni Spirits Party • Dorothy Porter Service Award presentation. ***More information to come!***

Treasured Traditions

*What are some of your favorite memories from your time at St. Martin's?
Email our Alumni Office to share your memories and photos!*

Senior Teacher Day / Senior Leadership Day

Senior Teacher Day was created in 1980 by English teacher June Wells, whose vision was for seniors to take over many of the adult positions in the school for a day. Wells' idea initially found enthusiastic support among the seniors, while faculty and administrators were hesitant but willing to give the experiment a try. Nearly 45 years later, this day still provides our seniors the opportunity to practice and demonstrate leadership, which is precisely why the name for the day changed in the 1990s to reflect both the focus and the range of positions students can assume on that day. This year, the Class of 2024 took over campus on February 1, in roles across all divisions and departments. **Read more** on our website and browse through photos below from past years.



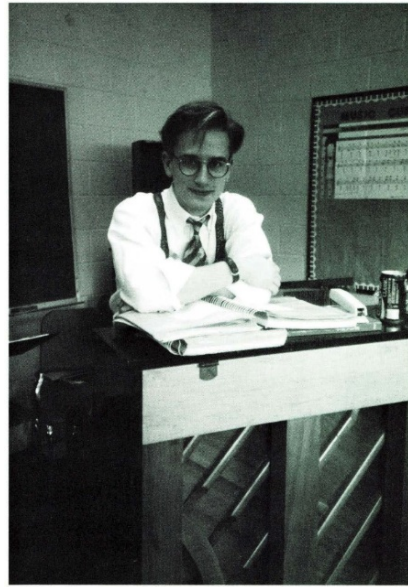
2010



1983



2007



1993



2019



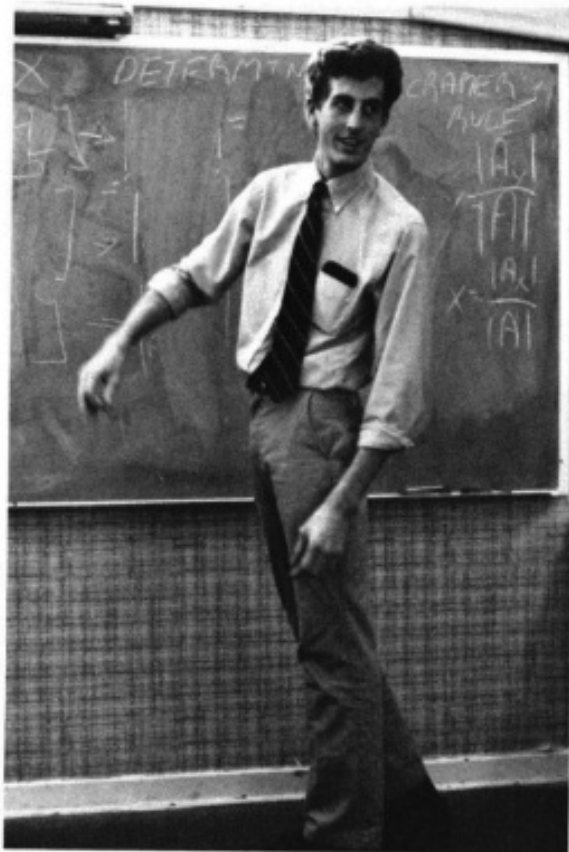
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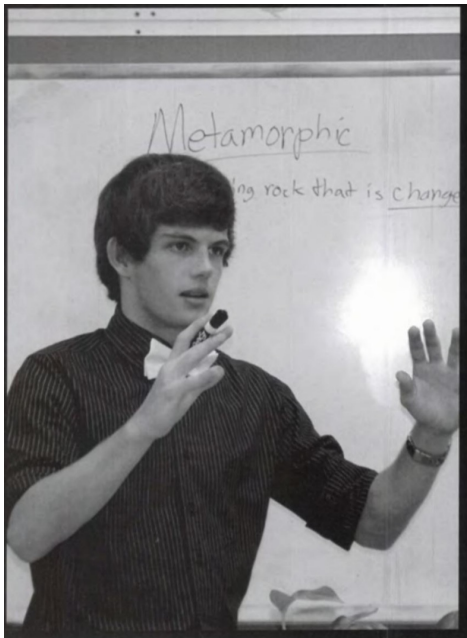
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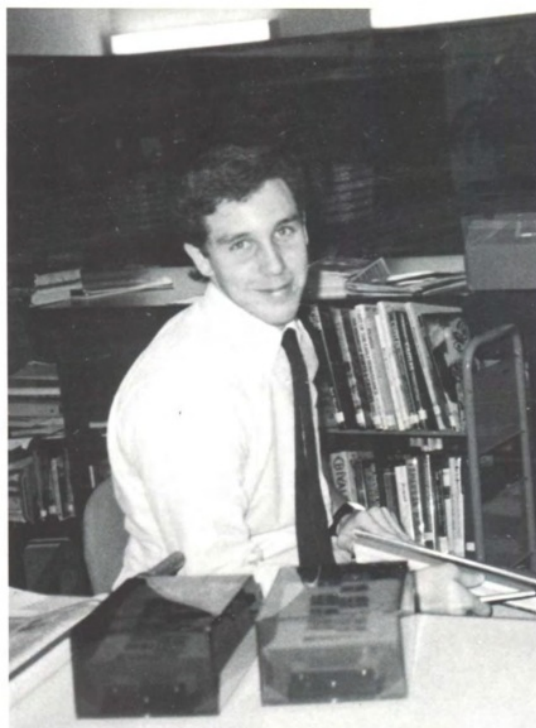
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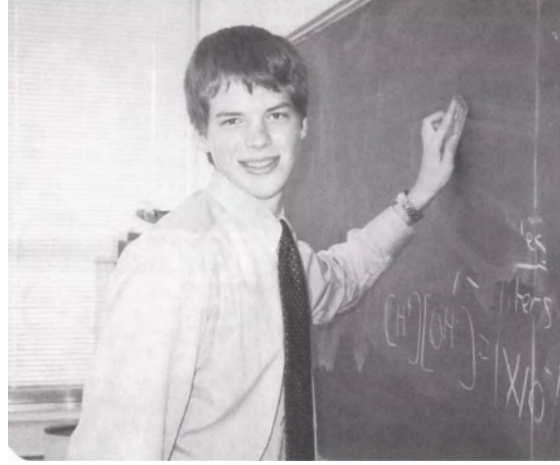
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1989



1991



2002

2019



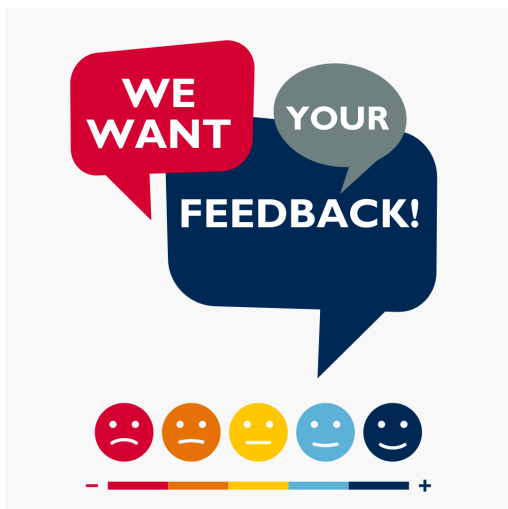
1993



2001



1999



Alumni News Three-Minute Survey

We want your feedback! If you have not done so already, please let us know what you think about our monthly alumni newsletter by **taking a quick, five-question survey**. It should take three minutes or less to complete and your feedback can help us improve the way we keep in touch with our Scattered Saints. **Thank you!**

Provide Feedback

Alumni Resources



- Contribute to our Scattered Saints section in ***The Bell***. Next issue coming out this summer!
- **Donate to Annual Giving**
- Please submit your nominations for our **Alumni and Community Awards**.

- Can't get to campus? [View photos from StM events on our Flickr site](#)

*“Long live our dear
St. Martin’s that we
cherish and we love.”*

ALUMNI



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